

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
celebrating 50 years...The Legacy Continues



INFOCUS

SPRING 2012 Edition



YEARS



MEET THE 2011/2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now you have seen all the ads and heard all the chatter about this very special year! Preparations are underway for the celebration of 50 years of Jamaica's Independence and also the Jamaican Canadian Association's (JCA) 50th Anniversary.

When the Jamaican Flag was raised for the first time on August 6, 1962, it signaled the end of 300 years of British rule and the birth of a nation. It also spurred patriotism and pride in a group of Jamaicans to mobilize and mark the occasion with a grand Independence ball at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto. As a result of this coming together of the Jamaican community the Jamaican Canadian Association was formed approximately one month later.

As we celebrate our 50th (Golden) Jubilee, and reflect on the accomplishments of 50 years, we are also focused on the next chapter of our journey. As you will note in this issue of the Infocus a working group has been formed to engage JCA members as well as the wider community and stake holders around this issue. Whatever the future may hold we will face it with the fortitude and tenacity of our elders. The legacy of the JCA will continue... must continue.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff I invite you to join us as we celebrate our Anniversary and the achievements of 50 years.



Saturday, July 21st, 2012, 7:00 pm
The Jamaican Canadian Association's (JCA)

50TH (GOLDEN) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GALA
"CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE"
995 Arrow Road, Toronto, Ontario

Guest Speaker: Senator The Hon. K.D. Knight, QC

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 27th.

Warmest regards,

Audrey Campbell

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



March 31st marks the end of our fiscal year at the JCA. We can now look back and be proud of all our accomplishments and learn from the challenges that faced us and the ways and means that we navigated around them.

The JCA's application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for a capital grant was approved in 2011. We received \$46,800 from the OTF to assist us in undertaking three projects. The projects are to retrofit the lights to more energy efficient ones, replace the floor tiles in the lobby and halls and repair the roof. The first project to retrofit the lights to more energy efficient ones has recently been completed.

The President and I met with Councillor Georgio Mammoliti in January 2012 and presented him with a cover letter signed by the CEO and President and the Petition for a Crosswalk and Signal at the JCA with over 600 signatures. Councillor Mammoliti responded to us that the city had stopped constructing "Cross Walks" but there may be other options. He promised us that he will be meeting with the traffic department to discuss the issue. He also said that he would need to come out to the JCA, on our invitation, to see what the usage and street crossing volume is.

Our Youth Leadership Camp will be hosted at the JCA in July and August this year. Youth participating in the camp will learn leadership and interpersonal skills. More information on the camp will be made available soon. We will again have our United Way fundraising barbeque this summer. Information on this will also be available very soon.

The excitement is building as JCA's Board, members, staff and volunteers makes plans to celebrate its 50th birthday and Jamaica's 50th year of independence. The late great Bob Marley's song explains this feeling as "Positive vibration, yeah! Positive!"

I am humbled and thankful to our financial supporters of our programs and services. I am also appreciative of our hard working staff who often times volunteer their time for various initiatives at the JCA. Our Board remains cohesive and dedicated to the task of organizational governance and our membership continue to be supportive in all aspects of the JCA. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to our clients and customers, some of whom have been using the services of the JCA for many years.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Foster

Recollections of the First Annual General Meeting of The Jamaican Canadian Association

In the early 60's membership was around 200. The membership fee was \$2.00 per annum. Communication to membership was by Newsletter and telephone. The Newsletter was typed on a stencil and reproduced on a Mimeograph copying machine and mailed out quarterly--before the quarterly meeting. There was also a telephone call to members. The type of refreshments served was not cooked meals. It was more like coffee, sandwiches, cookies or just coffee. Members were not required to sign in but a paper was passed around for them to sign during the meeting. In the early years meetings were held at the YMCA, the YMHA, and in later years at OISE. Fund raising activities were held to supplement membership fees and some expenses were borne by the Executive members.

The first meeting of the JCA was the organizational meeting September 23, 1962. The fiscal year for the association was also the calendar year, December 31 to my recollection. General meetings were not held between September and December 1962. The first Annual General Meeting would have been held in the early months of 1963, if my memory serves me correctly, March 1963. At that meeting the usual agenda would be followed. This would consist of the minutes of any previous meeting, correspondence, the treasurer's report, the president's report; new business and the election of new Executive Members. Because of the newness of the Association there were no overly complex issues to deal with so it was relatively easy to move through the agenda. Members were affable and cooperative.

The election of the Executive Committee was uneventful. This Committee had only been elected in September and had not yet served a full term therefore the expectation was that they would be returned en bloc to manage the business of the association for the coming year. This was in fact the case except that two members, J. B. Campbell and Mrs. Violet Carter, indicated that they were unable to continue. They were replaced by Frank Magnus and Roy Heron by acclamation. Frank Magnus was appointed chairperson of the Education and Scholarship Committee and Roy Heron was appointed Chairperson of the Building Committee. Attendance at meetings was generally quite good and member participation was great. Members would table motions from the floor and there were spirited discussions on matters being debated. Following the meetings there would be refreshments and opportunity for members to socialize.

-----Roy Williams

HALL RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Consider hosting your next special event at the JCA. We offer competitive hall rental rates for various functions. For more information or to book an appointment to view the space, contact Jennifer at (416) 746-5772 x226.



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS JCA Family Picnic 2011



CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Adaoma Patterson, Executive Secretary

If JCA was created in 2012 what would it look like & how different would it be than the one that was created in 1962? That is the question a working group is seeking to answer this year. The working group comprised of past presidents Roy Williams, Vincent Conville, Miah Bailey, Kamala-Jean Gopie, Herman Stewart in addition to past board member Erma Collins, current president Audrey Campbell and board members Sylvanus Thompson and Adaoma Patterson will be meeting in 2012 to determine the best course of action for JCA as we approach our 50th anniversary.

Over the course of 2012, the working group will review the recommendations from the 2008 organizational review and seek to understand the current needs of the community. Our goal is to determine what structure will best allow JCA to continue to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community in a climate of significant economic and political change. We want you to be a part of the conversation and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Stay tuned for details on a community and member forum in the coming months as well as regular updates at the quarterly meetings. Feel free to contact the committee at execsec@jcaontario.org.

EDUCATION CORNER

The Saturday Morning Tutorial Program is focused on providing tutorial services for students in middle and high schools. The JCA has been providing this service for a many years. Each Saturday both students and tutors meet at the JCA facility where students area coached in number of subjects including with the focus on the fundamentals of Mathematics and English.

However besides the fundamentals we endeavours to expose the students to new ideas and experiences that we believe will enrich their learning experience and open their minds to new career possibilities. For this reason the students of the SMTP are taken on field trips to facilities such as SciNet.

SciNet is Canada's largest supercomputer centre, providing Canadian researchers with computational resources and expertise necessary to perform their research on scales not previously possible in Canada. The SciNet offices are based on the St.

George street campus, however, to accommodate the large floor space and power needs, the data centre facility is housed in a warehouse about 30 km north of campus in Vaughan and this is the facility we visited.

The students had an amazing time touring and learning about the computing facility. They had the opportunity to build and run experiments that simulated astronomical phenomena such as colliding galaxies of various densities and size. The students also experimented with simulations of forest fires and learned about the factors that influenced the rate and spread of fires. The chaperoning parents were equally as impressed and had they go at playing with the computers.

We at the JCA and the SMTP are on a mission to educate the next generation. Under the coordination of Vilma Garnet the SMTP had a good season and we are looking forward to the next.

by Del Miller, Education Chair

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: A P.A.C.E. Sponsored Project.

Dr. Vincent & Fay Conville

It was approximately seven years ago on one of our many visits to Jamaica that my wife Fay and I discovered that very little organized music was being taught at the Basic School level. We were very pleased when we visited the Methodist Basic School in Ocho Rios and discovered that a young teacher from the neighbouring High School was volunteering her time to teach a small group of twelve students to play the recorder. There she was under a tree having fun with the children.

I discussed with her how she could enrich her program by using home made percussion instruments. The following year we visited the school and donated sixty Descant C Recorders to the school. We spent some time that day working with both the students and their teacher. Over the past six years, we have been working with a cluster of Basic and Infant schools in the Montego Bay Region teaching Music and Movement to teachers and students. With the blessing and funding from P.A.C.E. (Canada), funding from Fay and Vincent Conville, and generous contributions from St. John's Music Company (Waterloo), we were able to provide all of our schools with recorders, a variety of percussion instruments, CDs and music texts.

Professor Keith McLeod and Dr. Ralph Masi (philanthropists), and Members of P.A.C.E. (Canada) made an invaluable contribution to our Music and Movement Program by providing funding for a collection of Orff Bar Instruments for the program. This year, P.A.C.E. (Canada), completed our Bar Instruments collection by purchasing and shipping a Bass Xylophone and a Bass Metallophone to Sam Sharpe Teachers College, the custodian of our bar instruments. Over the past five years, we have organized Music and Movement Workshops for Basic and Infant School Teachers at the St. James Anglican Church Hall in Montego Bay.

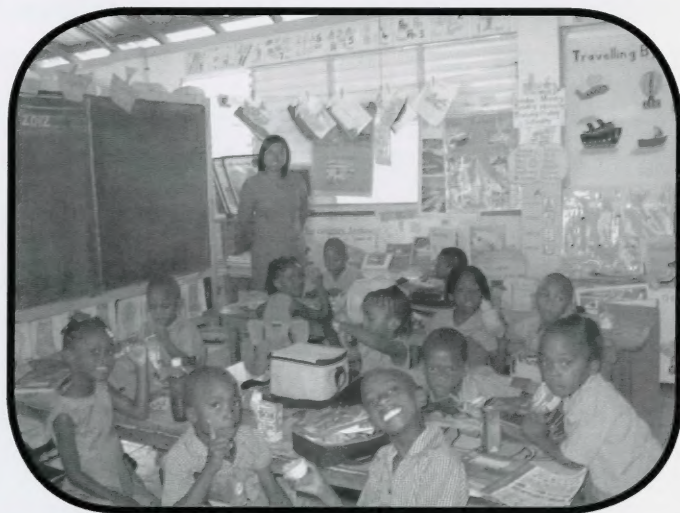
MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: A P.A.C.E. Sponsored Project.

Dr. Vincent & Fay Conville

Last year, P.A.C.E. Canada invited Sam Sharpe Teachers College to partner with us and to expand the Music and Movement Program. This is a good fit. The Teachers College has an Early Childhood Education and Music Program. For the past two years, we have had four workshops, which involved student teachers and Basic School Teachers. The partnership with Sam Sharpe Teachers College has resulted in the College sending students to volunteer and do practice teaching in some of our P.A.C.E. sponsored Basic Schools.

What a joy and wonderful feeling of satisfaction it is to volunteer once again with our own. Yes, the sea, sand and sun is a tonic to our physical self. The same can be said for the fresh fruits, fresh steamed fish with bammy, but after all this, one returns home feeling fulfilled with the memories of another year of working with those eager teachers and curious bright eyed uniformed Basic and Infant School children.





CALABAR BOYS DELIVER 'CHAMPS' IN SCHOOL'S 100TH YEAR

The JCA is proud to honour one of our Alumni School partners "Calabar High School" celebrating 100 year anniversary. We invited the President of the Calabar High school Alumni Association, Eugene Chang, to share with the JCA one of their proudest moments.

Calabar gained their 23rd lien on the Mortimer Geddes Trophy for the ISSA/GraceKennedy Boys' and Girls' Athletics Championships at the National Stadium recently to celebrate their 100th anniversary in fine style.

It was a title race that will enter the annals of Champs history as one of the most intriguing ever; an intense battle between the championships' most-storied institutions—Calabar and Kingston College—neither willing to back down, both determined to walk away with the spoils. Calabar, with 287.5 points, reclaimed their hold on the title, their latest coming 82 years since their maiden triumph in 1930.

In conjunction with Champs, Calabar High School won the 2012 Schools' Challenge Quiz, outclassing Titchfield High 37-31 points. This achievement adds dimension to the triumph of the school, making the 100th anniversary celebration even greater. Calabar is one of the most frequent winners in the history of the competition (after KC and Wolmer's Boys). However, it is the only school to win the competition three years in a row, and has been to the most (six) finals in one decade—2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2012).

CREST OF CALABAR HIGH



Calabar High School is a boys-only institution located at 61 Red Hills Road in Kingston, Jamaica. It was established by the Jamaica Baptist Union in September 1912. This institution is regarded as one of the top high schools in Jamaica and the official school colours are Green and Black. The grade-level range is 7 to 13.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Sheila Raymond was presented with the Ontario Volunteer Award for 30 years of volunteering with the JCA. In the below picture are from left to right Membership Chair-Pam Reynolds, Sheila Raymond, Minister Michael Chan is the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and President of JCA-Audrey Campbell.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION



"Women Recognizing Women" volunteer recipients from left to right: Andrea Crooks, Janet Samms, Dr. Lola Ramocan(presenter), Barbara Philips, & Trisha Frances

Ismay Murray making a special recognition to Minister Judy Sgro; MP York West

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Jamaican Canadian Association gratefully acknowledges the recent donation by the Royal Bank of Canada to its scholarship fund as part of its support of the Jamaica 50th events. Each year, the JCA awards scholarships to African-Canadian youth pursuing post-secondary studies. The RBC donation will be awarded at the 2012 scholarship dinner, Saturday September 16.



Audrey Campbell, President of the Jamaican Canadian Association receives RBC cheque from Pamela Appelt, Jamaica 50 co-chair & Diana Burke, steering committee member.

EXCERPTS FROM JAMAICA 50 CANADA CELEBRATIONS

A bus load of JCA members and board of directors headed to Ottawa for the celebrations of Jamaica 50. It was also an occasion to mark 50 years of Independence for Jamaica as well as the diplomatic relations between Jamaica and Canada. The event was held March 22, 2012.



FEATURED PERSON: SANTANA DUNCAN



Santana Duncan was recently featured at the JCA's After Work Edutainment (A.W.E.) series of networking sessions themed, 'She's Royal'. We believe her story of triumph over adversity was noteworthy. She is just one example of the wonderful work being done by Women in Motion, a community service group in the Jane Finch area.

I was born on the small island of Jamaica to my young mother and father. Being that my mother was fairly young when she had me, I was raised primarily by my grandmother with whom my mother and all seven (7) siblings resided. My grandfather was a traveler and had left for Canada at the time I was born. He was a hardworking man that put in time and sent for his children and my grandmother who was his wife at that time. Unbeknownst to him, my mother had me and was therefore forced to leave me behind after all paperwork went through for their arrival in Canada. I spent time back home until my mother applied for me to join the family here in Canada. Spanish Town is reputed to be a ghetto in which bad people come from, but for the most part, I had a pretty good upbringing. I was never hungry or went without the necessities of life, thus proving that goodness can come out of the ghetto. I went through schooling here and matured from being a Jamaican immigrant to a Canadian citizen. I find proclaiming my citizenship to be difficult at times because deep down in my heart I am a Jamaican through and through.

After having my son who is now 5 years old, I enrolled in university through the help of a great program within the Jane and Finch community called Women Moving Forward (WMF). It's no secret that the West Indian community faces stigma when it pertains to our family values and relationships. I am an example of the broken family and the effects it take on the youth. I was at an impasse when it came to my mother and gaining support from her where I needed, and WMF was the support, that solace I craved. The program, which is geared to helping young single mothers gain financial independence through post-secondary education, training, and volunteerism, gave me the fundamentals I needed to believe in myself and map out a future separate from the system. They empowered me to fulfill the dreams that took backseat after having a child young, and supported me as I propelled myself to the other level of my potential. I am thankful to the team at WMF as well as the support from a community of single mothers like myself who understand the hardships and still look forward into another day.

I am currently enrolled in the Community Worker program at George Brown with ambitions to graduate within the next year. No longer am I a mother that sits around and talks about her dreams, but am actually living it. I share my story with countless women, in and out of the community, relaying to them the message of self-sufficiency and the will to push. Pushing not only for our children, but remember that fight and that PUSH for ourselves as women. I am a proud black woman from Spanish Town Jamaica, and that is a message I am willing to share with anyone who comes into contact with me. One of our legends once sang, 'Learning to love yourself, it is the greatest love of all.' Whitney may not have known how powerful a statement that was when she belted it out in tune, but it is a message that stands as strongly now as it did then.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday July 8th please join us in celebration of the JCA's 50th Anniversary at the Annual Family Day Picnic. We will be heading to Crystal Beach Waterfront Park, Fort Erie, Ontario for an enjoyable day out with activities for everyone. We will have access to a Beach front with a lifeguard. Fun and games will be available for all children and adults. Three busses have been reserved. All are welcome so please come out and join the celebration.

The Annual Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at Toronto, City Hall on Sunday, August 5, 2012 at 1:00p.m. All are welcome families, groups and organizations, please come out and join the celebration.



Jamaican Canadian Association Jumps for Jamaica!

The JCA is a proud partner of the Jamaica 50th events that will be held in Toronto in 2012 to mark the anniversary of Jamaica's Golden Jubilee. JCA will play a key role in many of the Toronto celebrations, in particular the Jamaica Land We Love Gala, Saturday August 11, 2012 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Audrey Campbell, President is co-chair of the gala committee and has been actively engaging community organizations in joining the JCA in this premier event. Part of the proceeds from the gala will be used to create a scholarship endowment fund at the JCA.

The next Quarterly Membership Meeting is Sunday August 26 at 2:00 p.m. We would like to hear from you and look forward to your input.

The Annual Seniors Appreciation Brunch will take place on Sunday September 9 and we are looking for entertainers, volunteers and sponsors. Please consider sponsoring seniors from the community so they can attend this fun-filled event. To volunteer as a performer or host/hostess to a senior, please call 416.746.5772 ext249.

JCA Annual Scholarship Dinner is Saturday September 15th.

The Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday December 9, 1:00p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Public Relations Committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association is seeking individuals with a passion for JCA and Community Involvement to join the team.

Individuals should possess the following qualities:

- Excellent Writing Skills
- Editing Skills
- Ability to attend functions at the JCA and the wider community
- Good at taking pictures for events attended at JCA and within the community
- Excellent computer skills
- Write committee reports
- Prepare press releases
- Compile and write articles for the quarterly newsletter
- Individual should be outgoing and people-oriented

If you believe you possess any or all of these qualities, then we need you. Please send an email to publicrelations@jcaontario.org with your specific area of expertise.

WISHING WELL

Our sincere sympathies to bereaved families and friends of our members and our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy recovery to those members who are ill or on the road to recovery.

Questions

Please call us at 416.746.5772 249 or visit us at www.jcaontario.org

by Pam Reynolds, Membership Services



Jamaican**Canadian**Association

Presents

**A Father's Day Showcase
of Our Talented Children**



PICKNEY SINTING

SINGING - DANCING - DRUMMING - POETRY - COMEDY

COME CELEBRATE "JAMAICA 50" & "JCA 50"

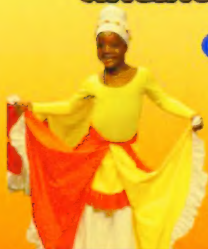
WID WI PICKNEY DEM

DEM LIKLE BUT DEM TALLAWAH

SUNDAY JUNE 17, 2012 @ 6:00 PM

JAMAICAN CANADIAN CENTRE

995 ARROW ROAD



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE JCA:

\$30.00 ADULTS | \$15.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12

INFO LINE: (416) 746-5772 - EMAIL: PICKNEYSINTING@GMAIL.COM

416.746.5772

**www.jcaontario.org
info@jcaontario.org**